DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE AND DANCE

BFA Acting
BFA Musical Theatre
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Located 30 miles south of Austin and 40 miles north of San Antonio, Texas State is in the heart of the idyllic hill country. Texas State University’s beautiful 507 acre campus houses 39,000 students, which makes our university the 5th largest in the state of Texas. In addition, the Department of Theatre and Dance is the 2nd largest theatre department in the country with close to 1,000 majors. Texas State is a Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI), currently our student body at the university is 56% BIPOC students. For the third consecutive year, the university was named among the top institutions for social impact on the Times Higher Education University Impact Rankings.

In collaboration with our students, we actively work a daily practice to combat and dismantle racism, sexism, and heteronormative, cisgender dominance in theater and in theater training.

With an average of 230 days of sunshine each year, the river running through campus is the perfect place to read a book, study for an upcoming exam or spend some time with your friends swimming or tubing down the river.

Texas State is home to 23 residence halls with styles ranging from traditional to apartment style. All residence halls come equipped with lounges, community kitchens, laundry facilities, cable, Internet, card key access and much more.

With so many diverse options we are confident you will find your home away from home. In addition, Musical Theatre and Acting students have the opportunity to join a learning community dorm specifically created for young artists.

You can find more information about the learning community on page 17 or visit reslife.txstate.edu.
Construction on Live Oak Hall, the new Film and Television building, is underway on the San Marcos Campus, with a projected completion of May 2022.

The $10 million facility, which will serve approximately 600 students and faculty of the College of Fine Arts and Communication, will feature a film sound stage, TV studio, recording mix classroom, editing lab, Foley room (sound effects), and offices. A groundbreaking ceremony occurred August 2021, and the 10,291-square-foot building is expected to be operational by fall 2022.

“The building is in response to the growing film program out of Theatre and Dance, and for the first time it gives Journalism and Mass Communication their own television studio,” Dr. John Fleming said, dean of the College of Fine Arts and Communication. For Mass Comm students, the state-of-the-art television studio will feature a news set and a multipurpose set for sports and other features. “We also have two new faculty coming on board that will be working in the TV studio.”

Project architects are the Lawrence Group. “They’re based in Austin and New York and the Austin side specializes in Higher Education. The New York side specializes in media/broadcast studios, so we’ve been working with some top-notch media folks in New York that have worked on some major studios,” Fleming said.
Our Program: A Conservatory Approach With A Liberal Arts Education

As a community of artists, we are dedicated in daily practice to combat and dismantle racism, sexism, and heteronormative cisgender dominance in theater and in theater training. Formalizing our goals in our syllabi, our classrooms, and our stages to breakdown and disrupt traditional theater training hierarchies; to hold space in creative collaboration in our classrooms and rehearsal spaces.

Texas State University is a Hispanic Serving Institution serving a majority-minority student body. Our musical theatre program strives to foster and continue to evolve an environment where social justice and anti-racism are key pillars of education. Our program is a conservatory style, four-year, sequence-based program with the benefits of a liberal arts education in a beautiful university setting.

Our approach to artist development eschews the traditional “one size fits all” model and concentrates instead on the specific needs of each individual student providing holistic, wellness-based, customized training to prepare each student for today’s professional market. Students build healthy, sustainable practices, with an emphasis placed on work life balance and integrity.

- Anti-Racist Pedagogy/Culturally Responsive Theatre Training
- LGBTQIA+ Ally
- Holistic Approach/Wellness Curriculum
- Business of the Business Labs
- Customized tracks in choreography, composing, music direction, directing & producing
- New Musical Development
- Shakespeare Study Abroad Summer Program, London
- Black and Latino Playwrights Celebration (16 years)
- Emerging Research University (ERU)
Musical Theatre Curriculum

**Freshman**
Introduction to Musical Theatre I & II  
Beginning Acting  
Jazz and Ballet (both semesters)  
Musical Theatre Singing Technique I & II  
Musical Theatre Musicianship I & II  
Theatre Activities

**Sophomore**
Musical Theatre Devising  
Musical Theatre Through Musicianship  
Tap I & II  
MT Dance I & II  
Private Voice Lessons  
Introduction to Theatrical Design  
Acting Realism  
Pop/Rock Repertoire Building  
History of Musical Theatre I*  

**Junior**
Characterization  
History of the Theatre II  
Tap III  
MT Dance III  
Musical Theatre Audition Technique  
Experiencing Speech  
Private Voice Lessons  
Additional dance class of your choice

**Senior**
Television/Film Performance  
Directing I  
Private Voice Lessons  
Two dance classes of your choice  
Musical Theatre Industry Showcase and Business of the Business

*Taken either sophomore or junior year*
**Kaitlin Hopkins**

Kaitlin heads the Musical Theatre program and brings with her over 35 years of experience working internationally, on and off Broadway, regional theatre, film, television, opera and radio. Kaitlin has appeared in over 50 television shows, 11 feature films, has originated multiple roles on and off Broadway in plays and musicals and has recorded numerous original cast albums and radio plays. In addition she is the proud creator of Fontus Dry Throat Lozenges, designed for singers. Fontus is the lozenge of choice of many Broadway and touring companies. Check out her acclaimed Tedx Talk #TeachMentalHealthNow: An Artist’s Approach.

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**Neil Patrick Stewart**

Neil heads the BFA acting program and holds an M.F.A. in acting from the world-renowned American Repertory Theatre/Moscow Art Theatre Institute for Advanced Theatre Training (A.R.T.) at Harvard University. Recent directing credits include: *Volleygirls: the Musical* in New York City (winner of the New York Musical Theatre Festival’s ‘Best of Fest’ award and others), and Gainesville, FL, the world-premieres of *Shiner* in both Los Angeles and NYC, *The Elephant Man* in LA (nominated for four Ovation Awards, including best production and best direction). Neil was a founder and creative director of Back House Productions in NYC, which helped push over 40 projects from page to stage, including Broadway’s smash hit *In the Heights*. Recent acting credits include multiple tours of *Julius Caesar* and Jean Genet’s *Splendids*, in France, Spain, Colombia, South Korea, and the U.S.

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**Christa Oliver**

Christa Oliver is an educator, activist, dancer, choreographer, and an Assistant Professor of Practice in the Department of Theatre and Dance at Texas State University. She received a Professional Diploma in Dance Studies and a Master of the Arts degree in Dance Performance from Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance. She also completed a course of study, Migrations, at the Mellon School of Theater and Performance Research at Harvard University. Her research and performance work examines bearing witness through dance and using dance as a tool for healing in places where trauma has occurred.
Kate Glasheen is an actor, voiceover artist, and voice and speech specialist. At Texas State, Ms. Glasheen teaches vocal health, anatomy, and production, classical text/verse analysis, the International Phonetic Alphabet, and dialects. National coaching credits include multiple shows at Actors Theatre of Louisville, Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park, Ensemble Theatre Cincinnati, The Know Theatre, and Center Stage Baltimore. International coaching credits include London-based theaters Upstairs at the Gatehouse, Dante or Die, Peut-être Theater, and Riverside Studios. Ms. Glasheen earned her MFA in Voice Studies from The Royal Central School of Speech & Drama, University of London. Member: AEA, SAG-AFTRA, VASTA.

Sandra Organ Solis is an educator, a master teacher, prolific choreographer, arts administrator, inspirational speaker, and anti-racist activist. Trained in the English tradition of classical ballet in her hometown of Omaha, Nebraska, her career began as Houston Ballet’s first Black ballerina, promoted to Soloist, as that company rose to international stature under the Artistic Direction of Ben Stevenson. Ms. Organ Solis has been engaged in the business of dance as well, having served on the boards of Dance USA and Dance Source Houston, and as a panelist for Houston Arts Alliance and Texas Commission on the Arts, having written and received grants from local, state, and family foundations. Since moving to Central Texas, she has been politically active, and motivated to curate a discussion series exploring racial and social injustice, using embodiment and story to raise awareness and empathy.

Cassie Abate
Cassie heads the Musical Theatre Dance area. Cassie received a BFA in Musical Theatre from The University of Miami and an MFA in Musical Theatre from San Diego State University. Favorite director and choreographer, credits include Gypsy (Starring Leslie Uggams), Man of La Mancha (starring Terrence Mann), Drowsy Chaperone (Starring Pat Sajak and Liz Larsen), at Connecticut Repertory Theatre. As a performer, favorite credits include the National Tour of Urban Cowboy (Bubbles) and 42nd Street at North Shore Music Theatre (Lorraine).
Lauren Lane

Lauren Lane has worked with some of the country’s leading theatre artists: Oskar Eustis, Tim Robbins, Lisa Peterson, Ellen McLaughlin and Bob Krakower. She starred in three television series: The Nanny, L.A. Law and Hunter. She has won numerous awards for her work as an actor including an LA Critics award, an Austin Critics Circle award and multiple Iden Payne awards. Lauren graduated from the MFA program at The American Conservatory Theatre. As Head of Acting at Texas State University she is proud to have former students currently working on Broadway, off Broadway, in Film and Television and regional theatres all over the country.

Michael Maresca

Michael heads the musical theatre voice area. In the last decade, he has worked with tens of thousands of singers across the globe. As the creator of the One Voice theories, technique, and training, he has certified multiple coaches who now teach throughout the United States. Some performance credits include Broadway National Tour of Mamma Mia!, National Tour of Saturday Night Fever, Las Vegas production of Saturday Night Fever.

Nadine Mozon

Nadine is an actress, writer, and teaching artist. Acting credits include Theatre: The Book of Grace, Intimate Apparel, Fences, For Colored Girls…, Home, Crumbs From the Table of Joy; Television: The Leftovers, American Crime, Friday Night Lights, Law and Order; and Film: Dawn, Dear Sidewalk, Wolf, Katrina’s Son, Two Weeks Notice, and Shaft. Original Work as writer and actor: “Delta Rhapsody,” “I.D. Please,” “Confirming The Search: That Girl’s Still Here Somewhere.” Collaborative partners on devised works have included musicians, singers, choreographers, and ASL interpreters. She has been the featured artist at regional arts forums and festivals, often highlighting her book of poetry, “Kiss it Up to God.” Mozon earned her MFA in acting from American Conservatory Theatre.
Charles Ney
Charles “Chuck” Ney is a professor of directing and acting in the Department of Theatre and Dance where he teaches graduate directing courses and BFA actors in Shakespeare and acting styles. He is also program director of TSU’s annual summer Shakespeare in England program, working with the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust, the Royal Shakespeare Company in Stratford, and with London’s Globe Theatre. He has directed at the Kennedy Center, Manhattan Theatre Club, Illinois Shakespeare Festival, Texas Shakespeare Festival, Idaho Repertory Theatre and Zach Scott Theatre Center. He has his PhD from the University of Illinois and has an MFA in Directing from Southern Methodist University as well as a BFA in Theatre from Illinois Wesleyan University.

Greg Bolin
Greg Bolin serves as Resident Music Director. He has been musical director for more than thirty shows in major theatres across the country. An accomplished arranger and orchestrator, including original vocal arrangements and orchestrations for Andrew Lippa’s A Little Princess. Greg received his Doctor of Musical Arts degree in music composition from the University of Texas. His original compositions have since been performed around the globe.

Yong Suk Yoo
If Yong Suk’s aesthetic is interdisciplinary, his artistic mission is internationalism. Yong is a strong believer that diversity, the inherent human need to be appreciated and respected for who we are in all our differences, as a core value that every theater company, art school, and organization needs to achieve. To go further global opportunity, he believes that artists themselves must drive new perspectives and links to new avenues of intercultural opportunity, which his own experience has proved.

Yong Suk Yoo is married to Joo Ryoung Kim, a Korean film, TV drama, theater actress of considerable renown whose artistry always inspires him. They have a daughter, Katherine Hayoung, born in California in 2013.
Michael served as Head of Acting at Texas State from 2006-2014. He joined the faculty at Texas State University in 2001 having previously taught graduate acting at the Florida State University/Asolo Conservatory for Actor Training and in the FSU graduate Film Conservatory. In addition, he has taught at the University of Texas-Austin, Virginia Commonwealth University, and St. Edwards University. Michael earned his MFA Degree in directing from Southern Methodist University, and BFA Degree in acting from Virginia Commonwealth University. He has studied with Tina Packer, Dennis Krausnick, Stephen Wangh, Maria Aitken, Marjorie Barstow, and Richard Schechner, among others. Still a working professional, Michael has acted in over 30 films and television shows.

Michael Costello

Torens L. Johnson

Torens L. Johnson is a native of Smithfield, VA. He matriculated from Governor’s Magnet School of the Performing Arts (Norfolk, VA), and continued pursuing higher learning in dance with the Alvin Ailey American Dance Center as a certificate student (New York, New York).

Mr. Johnson completed his Bachelor of Fine Arts degree at Towson University while serving as Instructor of Dance with Beth Tfiloh Dahan Community School (Baltimore, MD), where he worked with grades K through 12. He then took his knowledge of dance and movement back to Missouri where he became Director of Dance at Paseo Academy of the Fine & Performing Arts, while also obtaining his certification in Dance at the University of Missouri (St. Louis, MO).

Natalie Blackman

Natalie is an actor, singer, teaching artist, voice and dialect coach, and creator of community-based theatrical experiences for enabling dialogue and social change. Natalie has been seen on stages in New York City and regional stages such as The Illinois Shakespeare Festival, the Utah Shakespeare Festival, and Pioneer Theatre Company. Her solo show, Disorder, was a bestseller and award winner at the United Solo Festival in New York City, the world’s largest solo theatre festival. Natalie is also certified by the National Council for Behavioral Health as a Mental Health First Aid Instructor. Natalie holds an MFA in Civic Engagement and Classical Acting from Illinois State University and a BFA from the University of Utah’s Actor Training Program. www.natalieblackman.com
TEXAS STATE BFA ACTOR TRAINING IS FOR STUDENTS WHO:

Work in Film, Television, Theatre, Web content and Voice-over
Out-of-state-students who want to receive in-state tuition rates
Rigorous, comprehensive, individualized training
Know how crucial it is for artists to avoid student debt

OUR STUDENTS WORK


The BFA Acting program is among the most comprehensive in the country. Over the course of four years, students will complete 12 acting classes, four voice/speech classes and at least four movement and dance classes.

**Freshman Year**
The first year of actor training focuses on foundational work in acting, voice and movement including: The Stanislavsky System, principles of Fitzmaurice Voicework, Alexander Technique and Viewpoints, as well as Experiencing Speech.

**Sophomore Year**
Acting Realism, Meisner Technique, Characterization, advanced Fitzmaurice Voicework, The Style (based on the work of Theatre du Soleil and The Actors’ Gang), and Dialects.

*Oregon Shakespeare Intensive (summer)*

**Junior Year**
Physical Actor Training, authentic movement, Psychological Gesture, Physicalizing, Viewpoints II, Lecoq, physical comedy, mask, Commedia and clown. Actor Artist Aesthetic, Acting for Television and Film.

* Study Abroad in London and Stratford (summer)

**Senior Year**
This year we begin to prepare you for your launch into the industry. You will generate all of your professional marketing materials: website, professionally shot headshots, a resume and bio that creatively showcase your current status. You will gather materials for visual reels from collaborations on web series, short films and professional work shot in Austin and surrounding cities. You will complete exhaustive research on the market in which you intend to begin your career. You will continue to study Shakespeare and acting styles as you prepare to make the leap into the industry.
**COST COMPARISON**
**OUT-OF-STATE**
**2020-2021**

*All out-of-state students in the Musical Theatre and Acting programs are guaranteed scholarships that qualify them for in-state tuition*

**Tuition for Texas State University**

$11,860

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Out-of-State University</th>
<th>Annual Tuition and Fees</th>
<th>Difference/Year</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New York University - Tisch &amp; Steinhardt</td>
<td>$62,062</td>
<td>$50,202</td>
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<td>Carnegie Mellon University</td>
<td>$58,485</td>
<td>$46,625</td>
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<td>University of Michigan (non-resident)</td>
<td>$54,097</td>
<td>$42,237</td>
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<td>Pace University - New York</td>
<td>$47,684</td>
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<td>Boston Conservatory</td>
<td>$46,412</td>
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<td>Rutgers University</td>
<td>$46,339</td>
<td>$34,479</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elon University</td>
<td>$37,921</td>
<td>$26,061</td>
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<tr>
<td>Baldwin Wallace Conservatory</td>
<td>$35,504</td>
<td>$23,644</td>
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<tr>
<td>Otterbein University</td>
<td>$33,074</td>
<td>$21,214</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oklahoma City University</td>
<td>$32,744</td>
<td>$20,884</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cincinnati Conservatory University (non-resident)</td>
<td>$26,735</td>
<td>$14,875</td>
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<tr>
<td>University of Oklahoma (non-resident)</td>
<td>$24,444</td>
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<td>University of Central Oklahoma (non-resident)</td>
<td>$18,704</td>
<td>$6,844</td>
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*(Based on enrollment of a full time student (12-15 hours/semester)*
**COST COMPARISON**  
**IN-STATE**  
**2020-2021**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>In-State University</th>
<th>Annual Tuition and Fees</th>
<th>Difference/Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<tr>
<td>Southern Methodist University</td>
<td>$56,560</td>
<td>$44,700</td>
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<tr>
<td>Baylor University</td>
<td>$49,246</td>
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<td>Texas Christian University</td>
<td>$49,160</td>
<td>$37,300</td>
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<tr>
<td>St. Edwards University</td>
<td>$49,076</td>
<td>$37,216</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Texas State University</td>
<td>$11,860</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Texas Arlington</td>
<td>$11,378</td>
<td>-$482</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Texas Women’s University</td>
<td>$9,630</td>
<td>-$2,230</td>
</tr>
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(Based on enrollment of a full time student  
12-15 hours/semester)
To view more alumni working on and off Broadway and national tours, visit our website.
Nationally Ranked Department and Programs

Department of Theatre and Dance is ranked in the top 1% of performing arts schools in the nation. The Musical Theatre program is ranked 7th in the nation by Collegemagazine.com

ACHIEVE

The Austin Critics’ Table Awards

Since 2009 Texas State has garnered a total of 50 nominations plus 26 wins from The Austin Critics’ Table Awards for their musical productions, including being recognized 5 times for Best Musical. Both Acting and Musical Theatre students have won the prestigious Deacon Crain Award for outstanding student work.

Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival

Since 2001, The Theatre department has been recognized at the Kennedy Center with 2 Producer Awards, 2 Special National Selection Team Fellowships, and 36 National finalists, including 9 National Champions.

2012 – 61 schools attended the event with over 1000 students competing. Texas State received 1/3 of the 50 awards given. Texas State earned 5 awards that advanced our students to the National Festival.

2013 – Texas State enjoyed another record year winning over 20 Regional and National awards including the Ken Ludwig National Playwriting Award for a body of work.

2014 – For the fifth straight year, at least three Texas State students advanced to the Kennedy Center as National Finalists including the Ken Ludwig National Playwriting Award.

2015 – 5 students advanced to the Kennedy Center as National Finalists where they earned 7 recognitions including the Ken Ludwig National Playwriting Award.

2016 – 38 Texas State theatre majors participated in the event and we received 18 of the 50 awards including 5 national finalists awards.

2017 – Texas State students were awarded 7 awards and fellowships, including 4 recognitions for playwriting.

2018- Texas State students were awarded 8 awards and fellowships, including 4 recognitions for playwriting.
Our students have the opportunity to learn from and interact with professional artists currently working in the field through our Guest Artist Series.

Phil Adelman - BFS/GAGE Agency
Michael Balderrama - Resident Choreographer, Hamilton
Andy Blakenbuehler - Award-winning Choreographer
Jonatha Brooke - Composerg
Camille A Brown - Award-winning Choreographer
Veanne Cox - Actress
Gavin Creel - Tony-winning Actor
Carmel Dean - Composer/Lyricist, Musical Director
Christopher Durang - Playwright-in-Residence
Carson Elrod - Actor
Michael Emerson - Actor
Joel Ferrill - Associate Artistic Director Dallas Theatre Center
Alexander Gemignani - Actor
Michael Goddard - CGF Talent
Jared Goldsmith - Actor/Writer
Kimberly Grigsby - Music Director, Conductor
Larry Grossman - Composer
Tyler Hanes - Actor, Choreographer
Christopher J Hanke - Actor
Hunter Ryan Herdlicka - Actor
James Hindman - Actor and Playwright
Rachel Hoffman - Telsey and Company Casting
Mark Hollmann - Tony-award winning Composer
Robyn Hurder - Actress/Choreographer
Sheryl Kaller - Tony-nominated Director
Ryan Kasprzak - Actor/Choreographer
Shirley Knight - Tony, Emmy, Golden Globe winning Actress
Michael Kostroff - Actor,
Bob Krakower - Producer, Writer, Acting Coach
Stephanie Kurtzuba - Actress/Producer
Megan Larche - Casting Director
Lindsay Levine - Casting Director
Erik Liberman - Actor, Writer, Director
Andrew Lippa - Award-winning Composer
Josefina Lopez - Writer

Michael Mindlin - Actor/Choreographer
Colby Minifie - Television Actor
Geoffrey Nauffts - Playwright, Television writer
Peter Parnell - Playwright/Producer
Austin Pendleton - Actor/Director/Playwright
Hayley Podschun - Actress
Carrie Preston - Actress
Mark Price - Actor
Adam Quinn - Producer/Director/Writer
Monica Raymund - Television Actor
Theresa Rebeck - Award-winning Playwright
Matt Redmond - DGRW Talent Agency
Kate Reinders - Actress
José Rivera - Award-winning Playwright
Devere Rogers - Actor
Michael Rodriguez - The Roster Agency
Jon Rua - Award-winning Choreographer
Xavier Rubiano - Tara Rubin Casting Agency
Luis Salgado - Actor/Choreographer
Andrew Samonsky - Actor
Octavio Solis - Writer/Director
Susan Stroman - Award-winning Choreographer/Director
Jason Styres - Broadway Casting Director
Regina Taylor - Award-winning Actress/Writer
Sergio Trujillo - Award-winning Choreographer
Luis Valdez - Writer/Director
Tony Walton - Designer-in-Residence
Douglas Turner Ward - Writer/Director/Producer
Richard Wesley - Writer
Scott Wojcik - Casting Director

The HunchBak of Notre Dame 2020
Students in the BFA Musical Theatre and Acting programs can choose to live in the Performing Arts Learning Community at the newly remodeled Retama Hall. There are many benefits to a learning community including early registration, special cultural events and a departmental faculty advisor. The students in Retama are advised by a full-time Residence Director who lives in Retama, a faculty member who lives in residence at Laurel, and faculty advisors who will meet regularly with each group as well as plan and participate in specialized educational, social, and cultural activities.

The Laurel Honors House (for students in the honors college including Terry Scholars), is located directly across from Retama. Laurel and Retama are staffed by 10 Resident Assistants (RAs) who work as a team to build a tight community between the two residence halls through interactive activities and shared experiences.